



The Indianapolis Radio Club Newsletter

Founded 1914

March 2025 Newsletter

Upcoming IRC Meetings and Events:

March 22: W9JP POTA activation.

April 11: Dale Hammer, K9NN talks about the Reverse Beacon Network (RBN) system.

Highlights from the March Meeting:

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Club President David Spoelstra, N9KT. There were 39 in attendance. There were several guests and first time attendees present. Recent upgrades included Bryce Wolf, AD9GG and Bendan O'Donnell, AD9GI. David reminded those in attendance of the next W9JP POTA operating event in the USS Indianapolis replica Radio Room inside the Indiana War Memorial, on Saturday, March 22. From the floor, Steve Wendt, KB9RDS announced that the estate of Fred Duncan, KB9FLB/SK donated a 40 foot tower and rotor to Salvation Army for their use with the W9JP station.

Next, David introduced the presenter for the evening, club member Mike Sercer, WA9FDO to talk about the Armed Forces Radio and Television Service. The service began in 1941. Before that, there was no VOA (Voice of America) or any other broadcasting for overseas servicemen, just a little bit of shortwave available. So some soldiers in Europe decided to start their own radio station. "Mail Call" was one of the first popular programs—included "Who's on First". The programs were recorded on disc and shipped around the world to different broadcast stations. Mike's presentation went through several notable events in WW2 and the fact that AFRS followed front line

activity. Of course, who can forget “Goooooooooooo morning, Vietnam!”, the popular Robin Williams film that featured Armed Forces Radio broadcasters.

At the end of Mike’s presentation, Bryce Wolf, AD9GG won the \$25 DX Engineering gift certificate.

[Thanks to Kyle, KC9GLR for providing notes from this meeting. - KJ9B]

Ham Radio News:

ONE DAY LICENSE REVIEW AND TESTING WAS A SUCCESS!

The class started around 9:30 am, and was a joint effort with the Salvation Army and the Indianapolis Radio Club. Overall, it was a success. Eight people were in attendance for the session. Due to the Friday night storms, some that had originally signed up were deployed and could not make the session.

David Spoelstra, N9KT taught the class, working with Jim Rinehart, K9RU and Bert Williams, KC9TQA, from the Salvation Army, who helped organize the class and test session.

Four of the attendees earned a Tech license, including an 11 year old girl. A few of the others just missed by a question or two and are planning to take the exam at a later test session.

Coffee and doughnuts were provided before the class and pizza was furnished for lunch.

In the week leading up to the session, some of the students had trouble accessing the FCC site for getting FRN numbers. However, the site came up in time for the testing session, luckily.

Testing was completed at 6:15 pm. Thanks to the VEs that helped out with the test session: Jim K9RU, David N9KT, Dave N9KZJ, Dave KB9YYM, Jeff KE9AJF, and Jim W0RLD.

[Thanks to Jim, K9RU for providing the information above.]

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR AREA EVENTS

There are several great opportunities coming up where you can use our hobby to benefit some popular events in Central Indiana. To volunteer for the 500 Festival Mini-Marathon, 500 Festival Parade, along with several other area events, go to <https://www.mcinares.org/publicservice/> and find the event you're interested in. You'll be able to practice your communication skills and have fun at the same time!

W9WIN LINKED REPEATER SYSTEM GOING AWAY

Citing increasing costs and aging equipment, primary owner and operator of the W9WIN linked repeater system, Mike Poe, KB9SGN notified key users that the system, based in Bloomington, with coverage of a good part of the state south and west of Indianapolis, will be essentially shut down as of the end of March. At that time, the Bloomington repeater on 443.775 will be taken off the air. Mike stated that the other repeaters that he owns will be taken down by the end of the year. In Indianapolis, speculation is that the 444.325 repeater will remain on the air for the time being, but will be a stand-alone repeater, not linked to any others. Some of the repeaters that are part of the W9WIN system are owned and operated by others, and the future of those repeaters is uncertain.

In Mike's email, he stated that, "It was a good run for over 25 years, everyone should be proud of what was accomplished." At one point, there were 12 repeaters linked full-time via RF links, with a few others capable of being linked as needed.

Since May of 2021, the W9WIN system has been the home of the "Welcome (to Amateur Radio) Net", partly sponsored by the Indianapolis Radio Club. The Welcome Net served as a great tool to help new hams get comfortable operating their equipment, with many of the new hams taking roles on the Welcome Net as Net Controllers and Loggers. The future of the Welcome Net is uncertain. Chances are it will continue on more localized repeater systems once new homes are found.

Thanks to Mike and the other repeater owners that have been part of the W9WIN system. This should serve as a good reminder to us, as repeater users, to support the owners/operators of the repeaters we use.

INDIANA QSO PARTY COMING UP MAY 3

The 2025 Indiana QSO Party is coming up Saturday, May 3, running from 11:00 am to 11:00 pm, Indianapolis time. This is a great time to get on the air, because everyone will be looking for Indiana stations. Several plaques and certificates are available for many categories for both in-state and out-of-state stations. Once again this year, there will be 10 “rare” counties (Brown, Cass, Clinton, Wabash, White, Morgan, Shelby, Miami, Carroll, and Switzerland) that will qualify for additional plaques. More information on the INQP can be found at <http://www.hdxcc.org/inqp/index.html>

WAYS TO SUPPORT THE IRC

You can support the Indianapolis Radio Club in any, or all, of these four ways:

1. Join the club. Your annual membership dues (\$20 for an individual, \$30 for a family (in the same household), or \$10 for a student, with valid ID) help support the club in its mission to promote our hobby by sponsoring monthly VE testing sessions, reaching out to new licensees, and welcoming them to the hobby. The easiest way to join is to go to <https://tinyurl.com/irc-dues-payment> and complete the process through PayPal.
2. Pay your ARRL membership dues through the IRC, utilizing the Club Commission program. The club will get a \$5 commission for renewals, or a \$20 commission for new memberships. Fill out the form available at <https://tinyurl.com/ARRL-membership-form> and send it, along with payment, to club treasurer, KJ9B. Or fill out one of the forms at an in-person meeting.
3. Join the Kroger Community Rewards program (it's free!) by going to <https://www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards> and designating the Indianapolis Radio Club as the charity you want to support. The club then gets a quarterly donation from Kroger based on a percentage of the amount spent by those supporting the club.
4. If applicable, donate part or all of your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) to the Indianapolis Radio Club, a 501(c)(3) charity.

If you have any questions about any of the above, please contact Ken Bandy, KJ9B, at treasurer@indyradioclub.org.

FCC INITIATES INQUIRY ON RULES TO DELETE OR AMEND

A Public Notice titled “In Re: Delete, Delete, Delete,” issued on March 12, 2025, is soliciting public input on any FCC rules in any service that members of the public believe should be deleted or modified “for the purpose of alleviating unnecessary regulatory burdens.” The ARRL is conducting a review of the Part 97 rules that apply to amateur radio and plan to submit comments to the FCC by April 11. The full article can be found at <http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-initiates-broad-inquiry-on-rules-to-delete-or-amend>

ARRL MEMBERS CAN SEARCH BACK ARTICLES

Did you know that as a member of ARRL, you can search back articles and publications of the ARRL dating back to 1915? Point your browser to <https://www.arrl.org/arrl-periodicals-archive-search> for this member-only perk.

RESULTS FROM MARCH 8 TEST SESSION

6 candidates attended the Indianapolis Radio Club sponsored VE testing on 3/8/2025. 1 new ham earned their first license, and 5 hams earned a license upgrade. Thanks to Jeff Basile KE9AJF, Ken Bandy KJ9B, Dave Jarvis N9KZJ, Jim Rinehart K9RU, Bill Leahy K9RFK, Dave Rodgers KB9YYM, and Jim Kajder AC9ZL for their help as volunteer examiners!

UPCOMING CENTRAL INDIANA TESTING SESSIONS (check with sponsor before planning to attend)

Bloomington IN 47401-5337
Sponsor: Bloomington ARC Inc
Date: Apr 05 2025
Time: 11:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: William F. Wootton
(812) 327-5457
Email: KC9ACL@ARRL.NET

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: First United Church - Call or email ahead due to COVID-19

2420 E 3rd St

Register at 11:30am

Testing at 12 NOON

Bloomington IN 47401-5337

Indianapolis IN 46254

Sponsor: Indianapolis Radio Club

Date: Apr 12 2025

Time: 12:00 PM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)

Contact: James Kajder

(505) 228-3704

Email: testing@indyradioclub.org

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: Salvation Army EDS Training Facility

4020 Georgetown Rd

Register or Call ahead

Indianapolis IN 46254

Lafayette IN 47901-1141

Sponsor: Tippecanoe County VE Team

Date: Apr 12 2025

Time: 9:00 AM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)

Contact: Elizabeth M. Flowers

Email: tippecanoeveteam@gmail.com

VEC: LAUREL VEC

Location: The Bindery Artist Studios

Pre-Registration Required

Visit Website to Pre-Register

511 Ferry St

Lafayette IN 47901-1141

Website: <https://www.tcvet.info/>

Anderson IN 46016

Sponsor: Anderson Repeater Club

Date: Apr 15 2025

Time: 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: Stephen M. Riley
(765) 425-4627
Email: wa9cwe@arrl.net
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: Madison County EMA EOC
300 N. Delaware St
GPS LOCATION: 119 N. Jackson St
Anderson IN 46016
Website: <http://www.andersonrepeater.club/>

Franklin IN 46131-9733
Sponsor: Mid-State Amateur Radio Club
Date: Apr 19 2025
Time: 9:30 AM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)
Contact: Jacqueline M. Frederick
(317) 432-7095
Email: vetestingmarc@yahoo.com
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: Johnson County REMC Building
750 International Dr
Franklin IN 46131-9733
Website: <https://midstatehams.org/>

Noblesville IN 46060-1624
Sponsor: Central Indiana ARA/ HCRACES
Date: Apr 19 2025
Time: 10:30 AM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)
Contact: Joseph March
(317) 224-9433
Email: jmarch54@att.net
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: Sheriff's Training Room
CALL AHEAD
18100 Cumberland Rd
Noblesville IN 46060-1624
Website: <https://www.hamiltoncounty.in.gov/908/RACES>

FEEL FREE TO SHARE OUR NEWSLETTER

If you belong to any other radio groups, please feel free to share our newsletter with them. They can also sign up to be on our mailing list by filling out the form available at http://mail.indyradioclub.org/mailman/listinfo/ircnews_indyradioclub.org.

SEND ME YOUR HAM RADIO NEWS

If anyone has any items for the newsletter, please send them to Ken Bandy at kj9b@arrl.net

Signals from the Past:

From the March, 1965 *Amachewer*:

LOOK--UP IN THE SKY!

Launch time for Oscar III, the amateur radio repeater satellite, is getting near, reports Don Miller, W9NTP. He says orbit times will be given on WBRI, 1500 kc., at 4:30 pm daily beginning as soon as possible after the launch date. Orbit information also will be transmitted on 147.3 mc. FM. If you can't get either, call Gil Curtis, WA9GEU. The Indianapolis area TV experiment planned for use with Oscar III was described in February, 1965, QST, page 20. [ARRL members can find this article at https://webpubs.arrl.org/pubs_archive/53438/]

Upcoming Area Radio Events:

- Wabash Valley Spring Hamfest: March 22 at Clay County 4-H Fairgrounds. Go to https://www.w9uuu.org/hamfest/hamfest_2025.pdf for more info.
- Columbus Amateur Radio Club Hamfest: April 5 at Columbus North High School. More info at <https://carcnet.net/> (although it's info for the 2024 hamfest right now).
- North Central Indiana Hamfest: April 26 at Miami County 4-H Fairgrounds, Peru, IN. Go to <https://ncihamfest.com/> for more info.

- Hamvention 2025: May 16 - 18 at Greene County Fair and Expo Center, Xenia, OH. More information and advance tickets available at <https://hamvention.org/>

2025 Officers:

- President: David Spoelstra, N9KT – president@indyradioclub.org
- Vice Pres.: Jim Brown, WØRLD - vp@indyradioclub.org
- Secretary/Treasurer: Ken Bandy, KJ9B - secretary@indyradioclub.org
- Dir. at large: Jim Rinehart, K9RU – board@indyradioclub.org
- Dir. at large: Dave Miller, K9RTT – board@indyradioclub.org
- Dir. at large: Kyle Bandy, KC9GLR - board@indyradioclub.org
- Dir. at large: Kevin Colbert, KD9MNB - board@indyradioclub.org
- W9JP Trustee: Jay Kraus, W9TC - w9jp.trustee@indyradioclub.org

To Pay Dues or Donate to the club, go to
<https://tinyurl.com/irc-dues-payment>

Or Scan this QR Code with your smartphone:

